

COMPUDENTIAL

FOREIGH SERVICE DESPATCH

To

The Department of State

From

U.S. Mission Berlin

Ref

Subject:

Alleged Statement by Soviet Press Officer Beburov on Berlin

Status

During a recent conversation Senator Dr. Guenter Klein stated (he requested his source be kept strictly confidential) that the Berlin corres-MAV pondent of the Sued Deutsche Zeitung, Rene Beyer, had told him of a conver- 4/2 sation he had had recently with the Soviet Press Officer and First Secretary US/A of the Soviet Embassy to the DDR, Beburov. As far as the so-called Four-Power status of Berlin was concerned Beburov flatly averred that it no longer existed. Any agreement among the four powers had censed to exist because of the violations committed by the Western powers when the currency reform was introduced in 1948 in West Germany and West Berlin, and when West Berlin was made a center of espionage and diversionary activities directed against the Soviet Union. The three Western powers have no more legal right to be in Wiest Berlin according to Beburov, and their continued stay in West Berlin is tolerated only by the Soviet Union and the DDR on a "de facto" basis. Upon the newspaperman's question whether this meant, therefore, that there would not be any change in the Berlin status until reunification of Germany was accomplished, Beburov emphasized that this was not what he had stated. He had mercly said the Western powers were in West Berlin temporarily on a "de facto basis" but how long the Soviet Union would tolerate such a condition was open 702 62 21/11-2883 to question. CUR - 120 0/10 70-8-4-8

Beburov by

Comment: / This remark reported by Rene Beyer is very similar to the one attributed to/Georg Dittrich of West Deutsche Allgemeine (see Despatch 343 of November 25). Dittrich's reputation is rather good; Rene Beyer's, however, is not. Beyer, who is said to have an extensive Hazi background, has a definite streak of anti-Americanism in him and a penchant for dabbling in East-West affairs. The story in any case sounds plausible and is probably correct enough.

Acting Assistant Chief of Mission

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